

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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Raichich (fnu), legal adviser (Rechtskonsulent) to the Austrian Federal Chamber of Trade (Bundeskammer der Gewerblichen Wirtschaft) visited the Leipzig Fair and made the following statements in the course of a conversation with East German foreign trade officials on 6 September 1953:

- a. Raichich has been officially charged by the Federal Chamber of Trade to survey possibilities for increased trade between Austria and East Germany. Raichich estimates the current volume of trade between the two countries at \$9,000,000 and believes that this amount could be doubled if normal trade relations could be established.
- b. Raichich sponsored the plan of appointing an Austrian trade delegate to East Germany, who would be a representative of the Federal Chamber of Trade and would have his office in East Berlin. East German officials welcomed this suggestion but indicated that they expected the granting of reciprocal facilities for an East German representative in Vienna.
- c. Raichich indicated that in addition to direct trade between the two countries, he envisaged also triangular transactions and cited the following example: Austria would supply certain goods to Finland and Finland in turn would export certain other goods to East Germany as payment for exports from East Germany to Austria.
- d. With the assistance of Leipzig Fair officials, Raichich established contact with one (Mrs) Dr. Henze (fnu) and several other officials of the China Export Import Corporation of East Berlin. He stated that Austrian authorities were in the process of preparing a list of goods Austria could supply to China and that the list would be sent to the China Export Import Corporation through the good offices of the East German foreign trade authorities. Referring to Western trade controls, Raichich stated that Austria is prevented from shipping certain types of goods to China but "it is well known to Austrian authorities that those who prevent Austria from shipping these goods, are themselves shipping identical items to the East".

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